

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03516 251752Z

41

ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: BURDEN SHARING: JULY 25 NAC DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: AT CLOSE OF JULY 25 NAC, DE STAERCKE REPORTED COMMENTS OF PREVIOUS DPC MEETING THAT BURDEN SHARING ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED HENCEFORTH IN NAC, AS A TRANSCENDENT POLITICAL ISSUE ON WHICH FRANCE SHOULD BE AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE ITS VIEWS. DESPITE HEDGING BY FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE, SYG SUPPORTED BELGIAN VIEW AND PROPOSED TO SCHEDULE FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION FOR AUGUST 1 NAC, BE WHICH TIME HE HOPED U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO REPLY TO REPEATED REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF ITS BURDEN SHARING GOALS. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER REQUESTS FOR BOP OFFSET AND BUDGET SUPPORT PRIORITIES AND AUTHORITATIVE FINANCIAL DATA FOR PRESENTATION TO ALLIES. END SUMMARY

1. UNDER "ANY OTHER BUSINESS" AT THE END OF THE JULY 25 NAC, BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE RAISED QUESTION OF FORUM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ALLIED RESPONSE TO U.S. REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL BURDEN SHARING ARRANGEMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT ISSUE WAS IN BELGIAN VIEW FUNDAMENTALLY A POLITICAL PROBLEM, AND REPORTED TO SYG (WHO CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 03516 251752Z

HAD BEEN ABSENT) THAT PERMREPS OF THE FOURTEEN HAD AT LAST DPC, MEETING AGREED THAT FRENCH SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN BURDEN SHARING DISCUSSION. COUNCIL WOULD THUS BE BEST FORUM FOR FUTURE WORK. THIS FUTURE WORK WOULD BE GREATLY FACILITATED

IF THE U.S. COULD PROMPTLY EXPLAIN AND AMPLIFY ITS BURDEN SHARING REQUIREMENTS.

2. SYG TOOK UP DE STAERCKE'S PLEA TO U.S. TO ELICIT GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON SO THAT ALLIES MIGHT COMMENCE AND PURSUE THE WORK THEY HAD ALREADY AGREED TO UNDERTAKE. HE PROPOSED THAT BURDEN-SHARING ITEM BE PLACED ON COUNCIL AGENDA FOR AUGUST 1, AT WHICH TIME FRENCH PERMREP MIGHT BE ABLE TO INFORM OTHERS AS TO WHAT MANNER FRANCE WOULD WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE NEW ALLIED EFFORT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE'S OBSERVATION THAT PARAGRAPH ON BURDEN SHARING IN COPENHAGEN COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN AMONG THOSE PARAGRAPHS SUBSCRIBED TO BY THE FOURTEEN ONLY, DE STAERCKE READILY AGREED THAT NEW BURDEN SHARING PROJECT STEMMED FROM DPC AND IN PARTICULAR FROM DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S PRESENTATION AT JUNE DPC MINISTERIAL. HOWEVER, DE STAERCKE IN ELOQUENT TERMS MAINTAINED THAT QUESTION WAS SO ESSENTIAL TO POLITICAL SOLIDARITY AND EVEN LIFE OF ALLIANCE, AND TO U.S. PRESENCE IN EUROPE, THAT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT THINKS ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED ON A POLITICAL BASIS IN NAC. HE ASKED U.S. TO SUBMIT TO FRENCH PERMREP ALL INFORMATION WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ALL OTHER ALLIES AT DPC, IF U.S. HAD NOT ALREADY DONE SO, AND REPEATED REQUEST FOR AMPLIFICATION FROM U.S. OF ITS AIMS AND REQUIREMENTS IN BURDEN SHARING.

4. SYG MADE CLEAR THAT HE HAD ALREADY ASKED U.S. REPEATEDLY FOR THIS INFORMATION AND THAT HE HOPED FOR PROMPT RESPONSE. ADDRESSING DE ROSE'S OBSERVATION, SYG SAID THAT HE HAD RAISED QUESTION OF FORUM FOR BURDEN SHARING DISCUSSIONS DIRECTLY WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND GIVEN THEM HIS VIEW THAT ISSUE WAS OF HIGHEST POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. DE ROSE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE DOCUMENTATION FROM U.S.

5. AT CLOSE OF NAC SESSION SYG LUNS DREW MCAULIFFE ASIDE AND RENEWED HIS APPEAL FOR GUIDANCE ON U.S. GOALS AND PRIORITIES IN BURDEN-SHARING EFFORT. LUNS SAID HE HOPED THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD
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PAGE 03 NATO 03516 251752Z

WOULD RETURN FROM WASHINGTON WITH INSTRUCTIONS AND DATA TO SUPPORT U.S. INITIATIVE. HE ADDED THAT PRESENTATION OF U.S. POSITION ON OR PRIOR TO AUGUST 1 NOW MOST IMPORTANT SINCE GOF CAN BE EXPECTED TO STALL ON MAKING DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN BURDEN-SHARING EFFORT UNTIL U.S. MAKES ITS REQUIREMENTS EXPLICIT AND ELABORATES ITS ARGUMENTATION.

6. COMMENT: WE WILL OF COURSE REISSUE DPC DOCUMENTATION TO DE ROSE, AS REQUESTED. FACT THAT SYG UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTED BELGIAN EFFORT TO BRING FRANCE INTO BURDEN-SHARING EFFORT IS CLEAR INDICATION THAT HE HAS TAKEN PROBLEM TO HEART AND IS NOT MERELY TREATING ISSUE IN BUSINESS AS USUAL" VEIN SUGGESTED IN STATE 136159. AS INDICATED IN PARAS 9-10 OF PO/73/76 (DPC FOLLOW-UP), AND IN OUR REPORTING

CABLES ON STATEMENTS BY SYG AND PERMREPS (USNATO 2863, 3321, AND 3339), MOST IMMEDIATE NEED IS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM U.S.--HOPEFULLY IN TIME FOR AUGUST 1 NAC IF NOT BEFORE --INCLUDING CLEAR CUT INFORMATION ON THESE SPECIFIC BURDEN-SHARING GOALS WHICH ARE OF IMPORTANCE BOTH TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND TO CONGRESS. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD INCLUDE 1) ILLUSTRATIVE MEANS TO REDUCE BOTH BALANCE OF PAYMENT COSTS AND BUDGETARY COSTS; 2) A ROUGH ORDER OF PRIORITIES IN WHICH U.S. WOULD HOPE TO SEE PROJECTS TOWARD THIS END UNDERTAKEN ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS AND 3) AUTHORITATIVE FINANCIAL DATA ON PRESENT COSTS, AND MORE DETAILED THAN THAT CONTAINED IN STATE 106504. END COMMENT
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